



## Fact Sheet

# The Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme

The Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) enables the Australian Government to use its influence as a major construction client and provider of capital to improve the OHS performance of the building and construction industry.

Through the Scheme, the government aims to foster a new culture where work must be performed safely, as well as on budget and on time.

The Scheme helps to ensure the benefits of investing in high-quality OHS practices are recognised. It operates such that, subject to certain thresholds, only head contractors who are accredited under the Scheme can enter into contracts for building and construction projects funded directly or indirectly by the Australian Government.

The Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) is responsible for promoting and implementing the Scheme.

The *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* and *Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Accreditation Scheme) Regulations 2005* provide for the establishment of the Scheme.

### Accreditation

Applicants will be assessed for accreditation by the FSC and will need to satisfy the following criteria:

- demonstrated senior management commitment to OHS
- integration of safe design principles into the risk management process
- whole-of-project OHS consultation and communication
- demonstrated effective subcontractor OHS management arrangements across building and construction projects
- whole-of-project performance measurement
- OHS training and competency to deal with safety risks
- demonstrated ability to deal with construction hazards and high risk activities
- past performance in relation to workplace safety and
- evidence of an OHS management system (OHSMS).

As a prerequisite, the applicant's OHSMS must be certified to Australian Standard AS/NZS 4801:2001 *Occupational health and safety management systems – Specifications with guidance for use* or, alternatively, certified to OHSAS 18001:1999 *Occupational health and safety management systems – Specifications*. Certification must be undertaken by a Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) accredited certification body.

Applicants undergo a desktop assessment and on-site audits to determine their capacity to meet the above Scheme requirements.

Accreditation is valid for a period of up to three years from the date of accreditation. A full list of accredited companies is available from the FSC website.

For further information about how the Scheme applies, refer to the fact sheets **Applying the Scheme to directly funded building work** and **Applying the Scheme to indirectly funded building work**.

### For further information you can:

- visit the FSC website at [fsc.gov.au](http://fsc.gov.au)
- contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**
- contact the OFSC via email at [ofsc@deewr.gov.au](mailto:ofsc@deewr.gov.au)

This fact sheet is correct as of 14 October 2009. Produced by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.

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